

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

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TO SECDEF WASHDC

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CINCUSAFE

HQ 3AF RAF MILDENHALL

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DEFENSE FOR CASF

E. O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: UK MMOL MARR PINT ELAB

SUBJECT: PROPOSED US/UK AGREEMENT

REF: USAFE DTG21100Z MAR 78

1. WE NOTE RECOMMENDATION TO EXPLORE FEASIBILITY OF NEGOTIATING A US/UK MOU COVERING RIGHT OF US MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL TO "BUTTON UP" AND REMOVE F-111 AIRCRAFT FROM BRITISH AIRCRAFT CORPORATION PLANT AT BRISTOL IN EVENT OF A LABOR DISPUTE. WHILE WE SHARE CONCERN ABOUT THE UNFAVORABLE IMPACT ON READINESS SHOULD F-111 AIRCRAFT BE TIED-UP BY BRITISH LABOR DISPUTES, WE DO NOT BELIEVE A LABOR GOVERNMENT WOULD BE WILLING TO ENTER INTO THE KIND OF FORMAL ARRANGEMENT WHICH AN MOU IMPLIES. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE BEST WE COULD GET IS WHAT APPARENTLY WE ALREADY HAVE--AN UNDERTAKING BY UNION LEADERSHIP TO RECOMMEND TO THE RANK AND FILE THAT US PERSONNEL BE ALLOWED TO MAKE THE AIRCRAFT AIRWORTHY AND RETURN THEM TO A USAF BASE.

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2. IN CIRCUMSTANCES SHORT OF WAR WE CANNOT IMAGINE A BRITISH GOVERNMENT PERMITTING A PLANT WHICH IS BEING PICKETED TO BE ENTERED BY FORCE. IN SHORT, THE BEST WE CAN HOPE FOR IS COOPERATION BY THE UNION MEMBERSHIP-- SOMETHING WHICH IF WE HAVE IT, THE PROBLEM DOES NOT ARISE AND IF WE DO NOT AN MOU WOULD NOT BE OF ANY HELP.

3. FINALLY, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD ASK HMG TO CONSIDER AN MOU SINCE THAT IN ITSELF WOULD REVEAL TO WHITEHALL A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING BY US OF BRITISH DOMESTIC RELATIONSHIPS INVOLVING LABOR, THE UNIONS, AND THE GOVERNMENT.

4. IN RECOMMENDING AGAINST AN MOU WE DO NOT WISH TO IMPLY THAT THERE IS NO VALUE IN PURSUING, INFORMALLY, THIS MATTER FURTHER WITH THE RELEVANT UK UNION LEADERSHIP TO ASSURE THAT THEY APPRECIATE FULLY USAF CONCERNs.

BREWSTER

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NNN

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